



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

60-Day Notice of Intent to Seek Extension of Approval of Collection: Household Goods Movers' Disclosure Requirements

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) gives notice of its intent to seek approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of the information collection (here, third-party disclosures), as described below.

DATES: Comments on this information collection should be submitted by October 6, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Chris Oehrle, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001, or to PRA@stb.gov. When submitting comments, please refer to "Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Surface Transportation Board: Household Goods Movers' Disclosure Requirements." For further information regarding this collection, contact Michael Higgins, Deputy Director, Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, at (202) 245-0284 or michael.higgins@stb.gov. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comments are requested concerning: (1) the accuracy of the Board's burden estimates; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (3) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology when appropriate; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board,

including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be summarized and included in the Board's request for OMB approval.

Description of Collection

Title: Household Goods Movers' Disclosure Requirements

OMB Control Number: 2140-0027

STB Form Number: None

Type of Review: Extension without change

Respondents: Household goods movers (HHG Movers) that desire to offer a rate limiting their liability on interstate moves to anything less than replacement value of the goods

Number of Respondents: 5,273 (approximate number of active household goods carriers in the United States according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)). See 2022 Pocket Guide to Large Truck and Bus Statistics (December 2022) section 1-7 Household Goods Carriers and Brokers Operating in the United States, 2017-2021.

Frequency: On occasion

Total Burden Hours: 101 hours. Household goods movers provide prospective clients with a prescribed form estimating the charges for the anticipated move and providing various warnings and disclosures, including a disclosure of the availability of two levels of recovery for loss and damage incurred during the move. The Board's request for approval of the initial estimate form contained a cost analysis indicating that inclusion of the loss-and-damage information was a one-time, start-up cost, and that an estimated 15 of the thousands of HHG Movers were large firms that print their own forms and that had already produced modified forms to meet the new requirement. The original request for approval also indicated that only a relatively small number of new entrants would have to create the required notice forms each year. Using 2022 Pocket Guide to Large Truck and Bus Statistics (section 1-7) to determine the latest three-year increase in the number of

HHG Movers, Board staff estimates that there are approximately 202 of these new carriers that have entered the business annually over the last three reported years. Each of these new entrants would require approximately one hour to review the released rate decision and to cut and paste the warnings/disclosures into a general electronic form, but only a portion of that time (about half) would be allotted to the Board's released rate disclosure requirement. Therefore, the Board estimates that the annual hourly burden for this collection is 101 hours per year for the industry (202 responses annually X $\frac{1}{2}$ X 1 hour = 101 burden hours).

Total "Non-hour Burden" Cost: HHG Movers may provide these forms to shippers electronically.

Needs and Uses: In the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, section 4215, Pub. L. No. 109-59, 119 Stat. 1144, 1760 (2005), Congress directed the Board to review consumer protection regulations concerning the loss or damage to property that occurs during interstate household goods moves. In Docket No. RR 999, the Board required household goods motor carriers and freight forwarders wishing to offer a rate limiting their liability on interstate moves to anything less than replacement value of the goods to provide their customers with clear written information concerning the two available cargo-liability options (a full replacement-value protection option and a lower, released-rate protection option). HHG Movers are required to provide this information on the standard written estimate form that the FMCSA requires HHG Movers to provide to their household goods moving customers. See 49 CFR 375.213. This information allows for early notice to household goods moving customers regarding the two liability options, as well as adequate time and information to help consumers decide which option to choose. If the customer elects anything other than full-value protection, the HHG Mover must inform the customer of

their rights and obtain a signed waiver, as provided on the form. In doing so, this collection enables the Board to meet its statutory duty.

Under the PRA, a Federal agency that conducts or sponsors a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Under 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), Federal agencies are required to provide, prior to an agency's submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 60-day notice and comment period through publication in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: August 2, 2023.

Jeffrey Herzig,

Clearance Clerk.

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